



Directions to the Site

The HWR trail is located 5 miles northeast of Bend. Exit Highway 97 at Deschutes Market Rd and follow signs to Deschutes Market Rd.—continue to the intersection with Dale Rd, and turn left (east) and travel 0.8 miles to McGrath Rd. Turn right on McGrath Road and go 1.3 miles to a parking area on the right side of the road after the cattle guard.

**GPS coordinates: Lat. 44.136595
Long. -121.223392**

Dalles, Oct. 8, 1867... The road from Klamath to Crooked River is probably known to some of your Indians whom you can procure as guide, but if not I will say that it is a plain trail, leaving the old Fremont trail at the lower end on Queah Valley on the Deschutes and keeping down on the east side of that river all the way...

*Very Respectfully, Your Obt. Servant
J. W. Perit Huntington*

Know Before You Go

Protect Cultural Resources – when you see an artifact such as an arrowhead or a blazed tree like the picture below, enjoy it – in its place. Removing, moving and disturbing artifacts causes irreparable damage.

Protect Natural Resources – Leave rocks and plants as you find them. Watch wildlife from a distance and control your pets at all times.

Motorized Vehicles – McGrath Road is open to motor vehicles, but – BLM lands south of McGrath Road are closed to this use.

Other Uses - This area is closed to all firearm discharge. The HWR trail and public lands within 300 feet are closed to the following uses:

- ✧ Rockhounding
- ✧ Overnight camping
- ✧ Placement of physical geocaches
- ✧ Paintball Gun Use
- ✧ Firewood Cutting and Collection of Forest Products



Juniper tree with a "strike blaze"

Crossed the river and camped. Huntington overtook us this morning. He had to lay out last night without anything to eat or blankets to sleep on. Weather cold as hell.

Journal of O.C. Applegate

Proud to PRESERVE & SHARE Central Oregon's HISTORY with you!

This pamphlet is provided by the Deschutes County Historical Society and the Bureau of Land Management. The artifacts discussed in the brochure and many more can be viewed at the Deschutes Historical Museum. Photos in this brochure have been provided by the Deschutes Historical Museum and BLM Staff.

Deschutes Historical Museum

Deschutes County Historical Society
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Bend, Oregon 97701
(541) 389-1813
www.deschuteshistory.org

Prineville District

Bureau of Land Management
3050 NE 3rd Street
Prineville, OR 97754
(541) 416-6700
www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville



Deschutes
Historical Museum



Huntington WAGON ROAD INTERPRETIVE TRAIL



PUBLIC LANDS USA:
Use ✧ Share ✧ Appreciate



Welcome to the Historic Huntington WAGON ROAD

Walk on the Huntington Wagon Road (HWR) and you follow the footsteps of the soldiers, adventurers, and immigrants who passed this way. The HWR trail is an easy 2-mile round trip hike that includes tree blazes and a historic campsite. Other unmarked routes along the way offer extra loops to explore. The HWR is named for John W.P. Huntington, who developed the original Indian trail into a 250-mile wagon route for hauling supplies from The Dalles to build Fort Klamath near present day Klamath Falls.

John Webster Perit Huntington

In 1849, John W. P. Huntington set sail for California to join the gold rush. However, by 1852 he had sold everything and moved to Oregon, where he was elected state representative for Umpqua county. In 1863 Pres. Lincoln appointed him as Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Oregon. Huntington served well in this job and was popular with Indians and settlers. He negotiated land treaties with the Klamath and Warm Springs Indians, and worked out commerce and resource relationships with the Siletz and Snake Indian tribes.

While his political life flourished, he experienced a lot of personal tragedy. He and his wife, Mary, had six children, including two sets of twins. Only one son, Benjamin, lived to adulthood.

On June 3, 1869, J.W.P. Huntington, passed away at age 38, from an unknown illness...and left behind a mystery that remains unsolved. As an Indian Agent, Huntington received Federal gold for salaries for Indian Agents. Huntington never deposited his last shipment into a bank—instead he fell gravely ill. Upon learning of Huntington's sudden illness, two agents hastened to his bedside. They came too late,

Huntington was delirious and could not be aroused to a state to tell them the gold's location. The location remains a mystery, although

years later a man named Myers claimed to have found it under the front porch of Huntington's home.

A full force turned out for Huntington's funeral, flags at the State capital hung at half-mast, and businesses on Commercial Street closed to honor him. His obituary attests: "...he [loomed] large in the history of Oregon and ...was a remarkably active and able man."



Oregon Historical Society OrHi 62747



The EARLY TRAIL

The Klamath Trail is the earliest known trail and the precursor to what is now the Huntington Wagon Road. The Klamath Trail generally followed the Deschutes River and was used as a travel and trade route between Klamath Lakes and Celilo Falls on the Columbia River.

The HWR, which was also the forerunner to Highway 97, headed north from Bend until it crossed the Crooked River near O'Neal Junction. From there it headed northeast through the Madras area. You can still see "wheel ruts," and where it's rocky, the surface shows wear from the iron tires. A few juniper still mark the way with single, large blazes cut into the tree bark.

By the 1850s, army road surveyors were using this trail as the shortest route between the Crooked River crossing and Bend. Huntington began improving this route in 1864. The road was used until the late 1870's when traffic tapered off and new, shorter routes were established.



The CAMPSITE

The HWR trail includes a stop at a campsite where travelers took shelter in the windbreak formed by the rimrock.

Artifacts found along the trail include numerous bullets, a gaff hook for catching salmon and a single-bladed axe with the inscription "I. Blood, Ballton N.Y. English Cast Steel." Historians traced Blood through the 1838 New York Directory and found he made axes used in barter with Indians. Many of these artifacts are now displayed at the Deschutes Historical Museum.

A large juniper near the campsite was faced off with an axe and used for target practice around 1869, based on tree growth since the injury. Although badly damaged, the bullet has been identified as a .50 caliber or larger lead ball from a muzzle loaded rifle.



Traveler's ARTIFACTS

Objects like buttons and food cans left behind by early travelers give us a glimpse into their lives. Who was Donald Kennedy and why was a corkscrew with his name on it left behind? In the 1800's, most bottles used corkscrews, whether for medicine, liquor, or cooking – so a corkscrew was vital.



Which thrifty traveler re-used the ox-shoe found buried along the road? The heel flange on the small shoe had been worn off, and the shoe turned over with the nails driven through the wrong side to lengthen the shoe's life.

Who needed the cure promised by bitters? Bitters were "medicinal" drinks concocted in the 1700s to avoid a tax on alcohol. They ended up as a cure-all for every ailment and an excuse to drink!

Nov. 6, 1867

Moved camp 18 miles. Made a dry camp.
Snowed all day. snow from 8 to 10 inches deep.
The prospect of getting through looks rather gloomy.

Journal of O.C. Applegate
November 6, 1867